

being entirely in those two names Bouvard
and Pe'cuchet,
and could not picture it without them."

Now Flaubert was one of the best-hearted men in the world. He regarded Zola's trifling concession as an act of great generosity, and it was to mark his sense of it that he solicited for his friend the Cross of the Legion of Honour. Pressed both by Daudet and Flaubert, M. Bardoux

showed himself very favourably disposed; and when, in accordance with usage, he was visited by Zola, he told him straightly he would be gazetted on the next National

Fête-day July 14, 1878. That date came and went, however, and Zola's name did not appear in the "Journal

Officiel" — the cross promised to him going, instead, to Ferdinand Fabre. Other occasions presented themselves,

Bardoux was often urged to keep his promise, but as often evaded it, and of course when the uproar provoked by Zola's paper on his fellow-novelists supervened, it afforded a good excuse for shelving the matter altogether. Mean-

time the affair had become common talk in certain literary circles, and Zola, who felt that he was being made ridiculous, had more than once threatened to fling the cross in Bardoux's face if he should eventually tender it. Alexis, in recounting the affair, throws virtually all

the blame
on the Minister; but the latter, after various
paltry and
untruthful excuses, which certainly put him in
a bad light,
told Edmond de Goncourt that if he had failed
to keep his
promise it was not his fault, but really that of
his colleagues
in the Government.²

It really seems to be the case that the
question whether

¹ " Les Emanciers Naturalistes," p. 204.

² "Journal des Goncourt," Vol. VI (January 21,
1879).